

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01741 051817Z

17 11
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 STR-08 L-03 DRC-01 /146 W
----- 026145

R 051635Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8837
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XY, SL, LI
SUBJECT: LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE UNION PACT SIGNED

REF (A) MONROVIA 5153
(B) FREETOWN 1610

1. THE MANO RIVER DECLARATION WAS SIGNED THIS WEEK BY PRESIDENTS STEVENS AND TOLBERT AT A CEREMONY IN THE TOWN OF MALEMA OF THE PEJEHUN DISTRICT OF SIERRA LEONE. REPORTS OF THE SIGNING EMPHASIZED THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE DECLARATION'S IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 1977. THIS FIRST PHASE WILL CENTER

ON SUCH MEASURES AS TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND HARMONIZATION OF IMPORT DUTIES, STEPS PREPREDISPOSE TO THE FORMATION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION.

2. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION IS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN FREETOWN NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1974. THE CUSTOMS TRAINING SCHOOL IS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN MONROVIA AS SOON AS FEASIBLE.

3. THE DECLARATION NOTES THAT THE UNION SHALL BE OPEN TO PARTICIPATION
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PAGE 02 FREETO 01741 051817Z

TO ALL STATES IN THE WESTERN AFRICA SUB-REGION WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNION.

4. COMMENT: BOTH PRESIDENT STEVENS AND PRESIDENT TOLBERT MADE THE MOST

OF THE OCCASION NOTING THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS STEP. PRESIDENT TOLBERT NOTED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HYPERBOLE THAT "THE WORLD IS WATCHING TO SEE WHAT WILL BE COMING OF THIS UNION". PRESIDENT STEVENS MADE REFERENCE TO BIBLICAL STORIES OF CHRIST AND THE FISHERMAN IN ADVISING THE PEOPLES OF SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA TO "CAST THEIR NETS WHERE THEY ARE". JUST WHAT THEY WILL CATCH REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
OLSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, AGREEMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973FREETO01741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731048/aaaabjkb.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) MONROVIA 5153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERIA-SIERRA LEONE UNION PACT SIGNED
TAGS: PFOR, XY, SL, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005